



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009

No. 175

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

O God, the hope of all the ends of the Earth be in our midst today. Endue our lawmakers with a spirit of wisdom that will bring peace and prosperity within our borders. Lord, keep them from disunity, ignited by selfish fires, that will hinder Your purposes in our world. Pardon and overrule what has been left undone or done amiss as You strengthen all that has been worthily achieved. Bless and keep us, and make Your face to shine upon us, as You give us Your peace. We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 3 o'clock today. At that time, the managers of the bill will be here. Until that time, Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each as in morning business.

At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the health care legislation. Today, the majority will offer the first amendment and the Republicans will offer the next amendment to the substitute. No other amendments, by virtue of the order that was entered before the Thanksgiving recess, will be in order today.

There will be no rollcall votes during today's session, and the next vote will occur at noon tomorrow on the confirmation of the nomination of Jacqueline Nguyen to be a U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California.

### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the next few weeks will tell us a lot about whether Senators are more committed to solving problems or creating them. We have before us a historic occasion. That is where we are—a time in history where we have never been before—with the chance to ensure the well-being of both our fellow citizens and our recovering economy. We have before us the opportunity to relieve the suffering of many and prevent even worse pain in the future.

But if we are to seize this opportunity, this debate must be on facts, not fear. We must remain focused on how we can best help the American people and the American economy, and we must avoid the temptation to drown in distractions and distortions. In other words, we must do our jobs.

Last week, my counterpart—the distinguished Republican leader, Senator

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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